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aCAademicS: The Newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts and Sciences

Peter Grant

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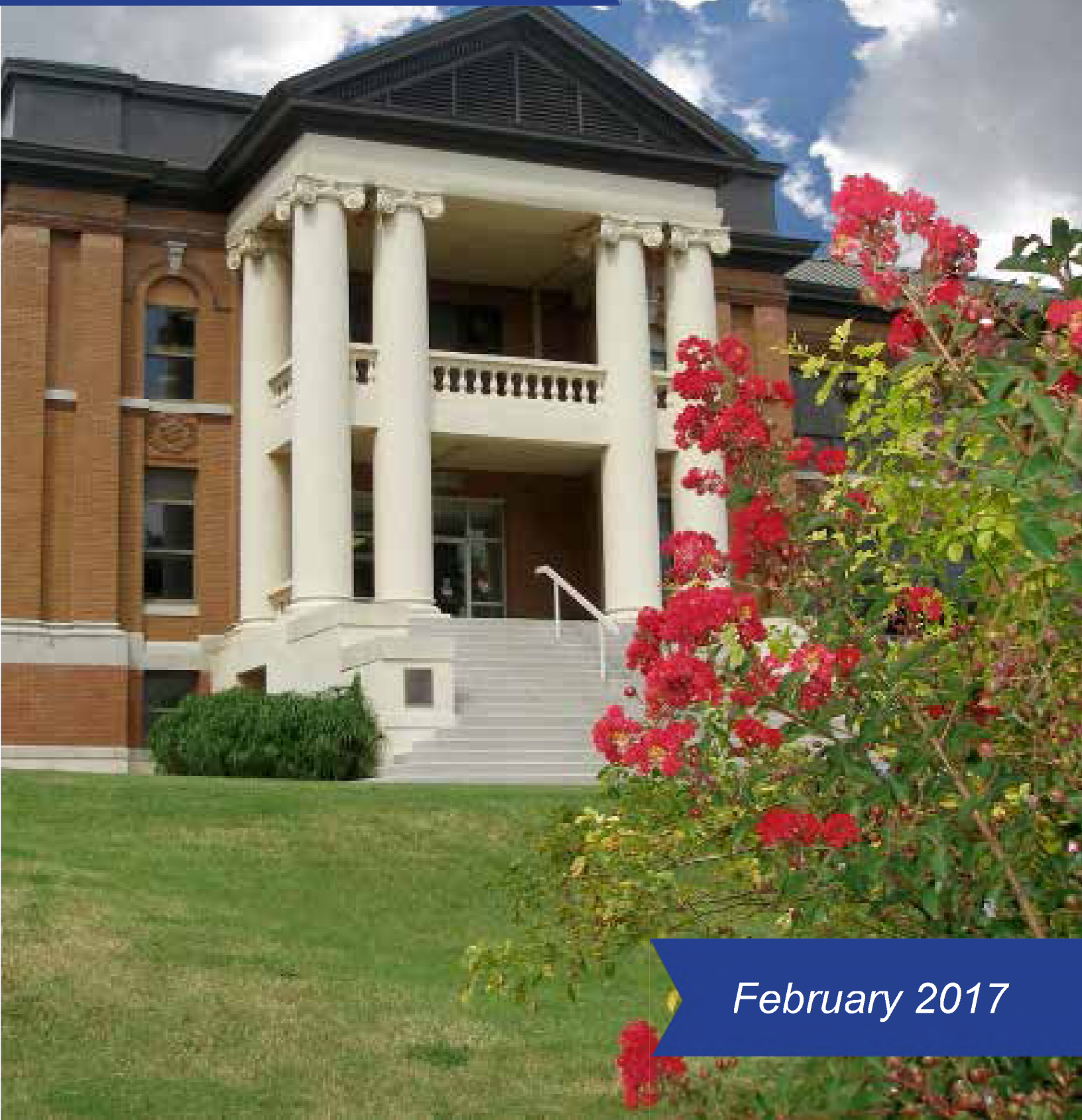
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aCAademicS

The Newsletter of the
SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences



February 2017

February 2017

Different Is Good

Earlier this month there was a program on Cheyenne art at the SWOSU Al Harris Library. It featured an exhibition, workshops and lectures by two Cheyenne artists, Messrs. Greg Lee Heart and George Levi. One of our Art, Communication & Theatre faculty, Dr. Siriporn Peters, organized this event with support from the SWOSU Libraries, Oklahoma Arts Council, Weatherford Arts Council, and the National Park Service in Cheyenne.

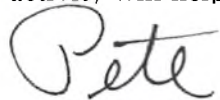
I had the opportunity to attend the program and give a short address at the opening. I had to ponder a bit on what I would say. I'm a biologist – not an artist. The most artistic thing I can do is attach articles on a bulletin board in nice, neat rows and columns. I also happen to be really good at drinking coffee, but I don't think that's an art form.

While pondering, I realized that what maybe amazes me the most about art is the creativity. For example, the individuals who were involved in the workshops each had exactly the same materials available in front of them, but each person eventually produced something unique from those materials, unlike anyone else's. And that was the point – to make something entirely their own, something different. As Mr. Levi might say, their creation is about who they are and where they come from.

Everyone's creations were different. And those differences were celebrated.

I think art helps us to accept differences, to celebrate differences, especially the differences among people – their cultures, races, languages and religions. The Cheyenne art program was a perfect example of this: 150 years ago the two cultures that were represented in the library were at war with each other. But, in the library they came together, and they came together in peace over art.

The next time there's a major conflict caused by differences in culture or religion, instead of distributing arms in an attempt to solve the problem, maybe the UN should distribute origami paper, modeling clay, or writing tablets. Perhaps that creative activity will help the antagonists realize that being different is good.



Pete Grant
Dean of Arts and Sciences



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February 2017

CAS News

Dr. Marc DiPaolo (Language & Literature) was interviewed by AMC and the producers of *The Walking Dead* for a documentary series called "Heroes and Villains." His episode will be about "How 9/11 Changed Comic Books Forever." He was picked because of his book, *War, Politics and Superheroes*. The show is scheduled to air in October.

Dr. Tugba Sevin (Language & Literature) published an article entitled, "*Choque de identidades en La otra conquista*," in *Furman 217*, a journal of Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Howard Kurtz (Social Sciences) was interviewed by News 9 about homicide rates in 2017.

Victoria Stambaugh (History major) has been accepted into the Masters program in History at the University of Alabama.

Dr. Tom McNamara (Mathematics) presented a talk entitled, "Calculations with Generating Functions," at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Atlanta.

What can you do with a Biology degree? Lots! Including acting in a Lady Gaga [video](#)! Monte Stone II (Biology alumnus) occurs throughout the video. He is riding the horse at the beginning of the video.

Jesse Velasco (Biology major) received the 2017 Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)/SACNAS Eye and Vision Research Award. This award includes a one year membership to ARVO, registration to the Annual ARVO meeting in Baltimore, and travel funds to attend the meeting.

The Biology Club won 3rd place in the group spirit contest at a recent basketball game.

Drs. Zach Jones, Rickey Cothran (both Biological Sciences) and Peter Grant (Dean) attended the 2nd Annual Biodiversity Forum in Edmond.

Four faculty received funding to attend and present their scholarship at a professional meeting:

Dr. Robin Jones (Chair, Art, Communication & Theatre) - Annual Center States Communication Association Meeting, Minneapolis
(continued on next page)

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CAS News (cont.)

Mr. Todd Parker (Art, Communication & Theatre) – Foundation in Art: Theory and Practice 16th Biennial Conference, Kansas City

Dr. Siriporn Peters (Art, Communication & Theatre) – National Student Show and Conference, Dallas

Dr. Lisa Castle (Biological Sciences) – Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference, Tulsa

Alumni News

Ms. Nyla Watson (Natural Science Education alumna) received the Teacher of the Year Award from the Weatherford Public Schools. Ms. Watson teaches Chemistry at Weatherford High School.

Mr. Otoniel Soza (Political Science alumnus) is working on campus as a Graduate Assistant in the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Ms. Kelsey Abernathy (History alumna) began her study in the Masters in Library and Information Science Program at the University of Indiana.

Art Faculty Selected as Trainer for Oklahoma National Board Certified Teacher Candidates



Ms. Marsha Carman (Art, Communication & Theatre) was recently selected to serve as the trainer for Oklahoma National Board Certified Teacher candidates by the Oklahoma Office of Educational Quality and Accountability. She will be responsible to help train National Board candidates in the areas of Early Childhood and Middle Childhood/Art as well as the Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Art.

Ms. Carman became certified in 2004 while teaching at Weatherford High School and recertified in 2015. National Board Certification is the most respected professional certification available in education and provides numerous benefits to teachers, students

and schools. It was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools nationwide.

While teacher licensure systems set the basic requirements to teach in each state, completion of National Board Certification signifies that teachers have voluntarily gone much further. NBCTs have developed and demonstrated the advanced knowledge, skills and practices required of an outstanding educator. Oklahoma currently ranks 9th in National Board Certified Teachers.

The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science. “The World as I See It” Albert Einstein

February 2017

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown Is Coming to SWOSU

The Department of Art, Communication & Theatre, with the assistance of the Department of Music, is presenting this Clark Gesner musical March 2-5 at the SWOSU Hilltop Theatre. The musical explores the world of Charlie Brown and his friends. According to Director Steve Strickler, the timing is unique in that the musical will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on March 3.

Each scene in the play is derived from different *Peanuts* comic strips created by Charles M. Schulz. Ms. Jessica Salmans is providing the technical direction and set design. Ms. Suré Bland (Music) is assisting with vocal instruction.

Evening performances are set at 7:30 p.m. March 2-4 and a matinee is planned at 2 p.m. on March 5. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for non-SWOSU students, and free for individuals with a valid SWOSU ID. The SWOSU Hilltop Theatre Box Office will begin taking reservations on Monday, February 13. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 4-7 p.m. Because seating is limited, reservations are recommended. For more information, or to make reservations, call 580-774-6046.



16 Teacher Candidates

Each year, students in our secondary education program spend about two months in a real classroom setting honing their skills. They work with a teacher, in that teacher's classroom.

This year CAS departments have produced 16 student candidates:

Nicole Laitran – Art Education

Katherine Sims, Victoria Stambaugh, Kyler Brackett, Grant Scowden and

Wyatt Carter – History Education

Dosanna Miller and Lindsay Pembroke – Math Education

Steven Whalen – Natural Science Education

Keely Clements, Caleb Broce, Ryan Siebert, Nathan Godfrey and Erin

Burris – Music Education

Jasmine Alvarado - Spanish Education

Reagan Nowka - English Education



February 2017

First Annual Darwin Day

Students in Dr. Rickey Cothran's (Biological Sciences) Evolution class celebrated the First Annual Darwin Day on campus recently in the SWOSU Memorial Student Union. Darwin Day is an international event in February, usually around Charles Darwin's birthday, February 12. The purpose is to reflect on the accomplishments of Darwin.

Activities in the Union included Darwin trivia, an evolution workbook for kids, natural selection role playing game, imaginary critter phylogeny and adaptations of aquatic invertebrates.



ESL Camp at Quartz Mountain

Sixteen students attended an English as a Second Language (ESL) Camp at Quartz Mountain Resort. Ms. Tee Kesnan and Mr. Fred Alsberg (both Language & Literature) organized the event. The purpose of this camp was to enhance skills in speaking, reading, writing and critical thinking for international students.

New Sign for Honors Building

A new sign was recently installed for the Honors Program. This program is housed in the building formerly known as the Y Chapel. The Honors Program is directed by Drs. Andrea Holgado (Biological Sciences) and Brian Campbell (Chemistry & Physics).



February 2017

Dr. Tugba Sevin Presents Lectures in Turkey

Dr. Tugba Sevin (Language & Literature) presented a series of lectures (see photo) at the Department of Western Languages at Istanbul Yildiz Technical University in December. Her lecture topics were “Teaching Methods of Foreign Languages in the US” and “Made in Italy: The New Popular Trend in the US.” These lectures are based on the project “Identity Enrichment Through Language and Cultural Interactions” funded by a College of Arts and Sciences Organized Research Award.

While in Istanbul, she led an orientation/recruitment workshop with the students about undergraduate and graduate studies at SWOSU.

Dr. Sevin was also invited to give a presentation to the Weatherford Rotary Club about her trip to Istanbul.



Cheyenne Art Project at SWOSU



A Cheyenne art exhibition, special lecture, and a series of hands-on learning workshops were held recently in the SWOSU Al Harris Library. Cheyenne artists, George Levi and Greg Lee Heart, discussed their art and led the workshops in ledger art, parfleche making and beadwork. Dr. Siriporn Peters (Art, Communication & Theatre) coordinated this event.

These activities were funded by the Oklahoma Arts Council and Southwestern Oklahoma State University with additional assistance from the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, the National Park Service in Cheyenne, the Weatherford Arts Council and the SWOSU Library.

Participants work on their beadwork during the Cheyenne Art Project.

February 2017

Passings

We were recently informed that Dr. Philip Holley passed away. Dr. Holley came to SWOSU in 1974 and taught courses in Criminal Justice. He served as chair of the Department of Social Sciences and retired in 2013.

Ms. Shae Brackett (Math Education alumnus) died in an automobile accident on 6 February. Ms. Brackett taught middle/high school math at Mountain View-Gotebo Schools.

We extend our sincere condolences to both families.



Important Dates – March

- 1 Brown Bag Seminar
- 2 Transformative Learning Conference - OKC
- 3 OK Research Day - Enid
- 9 Bernhardt Banquet
- 10 Spring Break Begins (5:00 pm)
- 20 Classes Resume
- 23 SWIM Contest
- 27 OK Research Day at the Capitol
- 29 History Day

This publication, *aCAademicS*, is the newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and is published by the office of the Dean of the College. Subscriptions to the *Newsletter* are free. To place your name on the mailing list or to contribute information for the next issue, contact Dr. Peter Grant, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, Oklahoma 73096-3098, (580) 774-7152, peter.grant@swosu.edu.